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MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS & MARYLAND HUMANITIES COUNCIL HOSTING SECOND EVENT IN *DEFYING DEFINITIONS* DIALOGUE

"Justice for All?" Discussion on October 28 at College of Southern Maryland

Baltimore, MD – The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) and the Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) will host the second of three public dialogues for the *Defying Definitions* project on Monday, October 28 from 6-8pm at the College of Southern Maryland Center for Business & Industry, located at 8730 Mitchell Road in La Plata. The event, *"Justice for All?" A Community Conversation about Freedom & Equality*, will explore what obstacles remain in achieving a truly inclusive society. The event is free and open to the public, with a light dinner provided from 6-6:30pm. Attendees are asked to register online at <http://tinyurl.com/defydefcharlesco>.

This second event follows the incredibly successful kick-off event, held on September 23 at the Calvert Library Prince Frederick, where attendees left feeling encouraged and motivated to take the conversation back into their communities. That evening, the capacity crowd discussed *"Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities: Exploring our Own Struggles with what 'Created Equal' Really Means."* The final event in the series will take place on November 13 at the St. Mary's County Public Library, Leonardtown Branch.

This conversation is produced in partnership with the College of Southern Maryland's Diversity Institute. The *Defying Definitions* public dialogue series is sponsored in part by the Maryland Public Policy Fellows Programs, a collaborative program of the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law's Center for Dispute Resolution.

Defying Definitions is a public conversation and community engagement program exploring identity, stereotypes, and diversity. It challenges participants to reflect on how they perceive others, how they are perceived by others, and what they understand about themselves. The project utilizes the humanities (film, literature, photography, poetry, etc.) to bring people together for dialogue, both online and in community settings, with the goals of breaking down stereotypes, reducing conflict, and modeling civil and meaningful discussion. As this project is open and ongoing, every Marylander is invited and encouraged to visit www.defyingdefinitions.org to join in the discussion and share their story.

The Maryland Humanities Council is a statewide educational 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The purpose of MHC is to stimulate and promote informed dialogue and civil engagement on issues critical to Marylanders. For more information, visit www.mdhc.org. MHC is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Maryland, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Awards: www.bakerartistawards.org.

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights represents the interest of the State to ensure equal opportunity for all through enforcement of Title 20 of the State Government Article and Title 19 of the State Finance & Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. MCCR investigates complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and state contracts filed by members of protected classes under federal and state law. For additional information please visit www.mccr.maryland.gov.

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